



THE SUPREME COURT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LA COUR SUPRÊME DES TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST

PRACTICE DIRECTION

GOWNING

1. All justices, counsel and Court clerks will gown for the following matters:
 - a. all trials, whether criminal or civil,
 - b. Special Chambers (civil) whenever *viva voce* evidence is to be presented,
 - c. all criminal Chambers matters regardless of whether the accused is present or *viva voce* evidence is presented.
 - d. any sitting held pursuant to the *Protection Against Family Violence Act*.

The presiding judge may direct otherwise in individual cases.


2. Gowns need **not** be worn for the following matters:
 - a. regular civil Chambers,
 - b. special Chambers (civil) when no *viva voce* evidence is to be presented,
 - c. pre-trial conferences, case management conferences, mini-trials, and other meetings with the judiciary in Judges' Chambers,
 - d. speaking to the criminal list.

On these occasions, justices, counsel and Court staff will dress appropriately to reflect the dignity and professionalism of the proceedings, whether in the Courtroom or in Judges' Chambers. This policy may be relaxed in exigent circumstances.


3. Where gowning is required, counsel with personal circumstances, such as pregnancy, a medical condition or a disability, are free to modify their attire to accommodate their personal circumstances as they see fit, including dispensing with a waistcoat and tabs. Modified attire must be dark in colour and in keeping with Court decorum. Counsel who plan to wear modified attire are requested to advise the Manager of Supreme Court (or designate) in advance of the court appearance to ensure they do not need to discuss their personal circumstances in open court. Alternatively, they may inform the clerk who is on duty before the commencement of the proceedings.

This Practice Direction replaces the Practice Direction called “Robing” issued August 2, 2017.


Issued this ^{24th} day of September, 2020 by direction of the judges of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories



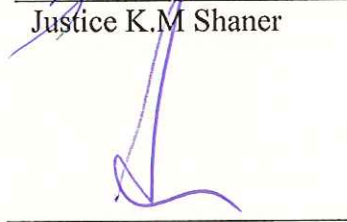
Justice L.A. Charbonneau



Justice K.M. Shaner



Justice S.H. Smallwood



Justice A.M. Mahar